

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

27 December 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Attitudes in giving (1 Corinthians 8:16f)

A.M. Lesson:

If a man dies, will he live again? (Job 14:14)

P.M. Lesson:

When I am lifted up I will draw all men to me
(John 12:20-36)

Wednesday:

Happy new year! (Philippians 3:12f)

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

***Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.***

James 4:5

Neil Short

We perhaps did not notice when we studied James 4 on a recent Wednesday night that the writer cites something in Scripture that seems to have no Old Testament reference. Our first order of business ought to be to understand what James means by what he wrote. The available English translations of the verse tend to boil down to one of two general readings.

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? (James 4:5, NIV84)

Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us"? (RSV, similarly ESV, NRSV)

Does the spirit yearn or does God yearn for the spirit? More technically, is "spirit" the subject of the sentence (NIV84) or the object of the verb (RSV)? In both cases, it is nearly certain that it is God who caused the spirit to dwell in us. Furthermore, should we understand "the spirit" to mean the spirit God gave us when we became living souls (Genesis 1:27) or the Holy Spirit that God has caused to dwell in Christians? Is the jealousy/envy a negative or positive emotion? Biblically, when God is

jealous, it is good jealousy. When people are jealous, it is usually described negatively.

James mentions the sin of human envy in 3:14, 16; 4:2. If James means human jealousy then we should favor the NIV84 and understand the spirit to be the human (not divine) spirit. On the other hand, in the immediate context James accuses his readers of adultery because they are too friendly with the world (4:4)! Thus, the jealousy in James 4:5 is very likely divine jealousy for the faithfulness of God's people. Since James is speaking of divine jealousy, we should prefer the RSV reading of 4:5. Alternatively, if the NIV translators had capitalized "spirit" then the meaning of the NIV84 would nearly match that of the RSV (as in HCSB).

So now we understand that James means God is jealous of us when we are too friendly with the world. Where does it say that in the Old Testament? Actually, spiritual unfaithfulness is a theme that permeates the whole Old Testament, especially prominently in the book of Hosea. James is not quoting an Old Testament verse. He is citing a powerful theme in Scripture. God is jealous for his people. Since James is not quoting a specific Old Testament passage, RSV should not have put quotation marks around what James said the Scriptures say.

The 2011 revision of the NIV gives a much improved reading of this verse.

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has

caused to dwell in us?

Freedom in Christ does not mean we are free to abandon our first allegiance. That is idolatry and God will not tolerate it.

Bibliography

Carson, D. A. "James." *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Edited by G. K. Beale and D. A. Carson. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007. 997-1013.

McKnight, Scot. *The Letter of James*. NICNT. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011. McKnight argues for the human jealousy/envy position by pointing out that the whole of chapter 4 is about selfish envy. He links verse 5 more closely with verse 6 than with verse 4.

Stulac, George M. *James*. IVPNT. InterVarsity Press. OliveTree Bible Software Resource.

Extended prayer list:

Robin Richards—depression, back pain

John Cunningham—cancer

Norma Robinson—health

Linda Boling—health

H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia

Ken Knowlton—cancer on his lip

Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs



Neil Short, editor. neshort@yahoo.com. <http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

News:

Ken Knowlton is going to have surgery on his lip on January 6.

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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3	4	5	6 Singing night	7	8	9																																																																																				
10	11	12	13	14 Sharon Cunningham birthday	15	16																																																																																				
17 Fellowship meal	18 ML King Day	19	20	21 Keri Richards birthday	22	23																																																																																				
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31 Ky Kescoli birthday 5th Sunday contribution		December 2015 <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			February 2016 <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29						Calendars by Vertex42.com © 2013 Vertex42 LLC. Free to print. 2016 Calendar 2017 Calendar
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